IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*): A therapeutic bird perch, comprising:

a cylindrical shaft of unitary construction having two opposing ends, the shaft having a perching surface circumferentially extending between the opposing ends and a plurality of longitudinal grooves etched into ~~defined in~~ the perching surface, the longitudinal grooves being disposed in an irregular pattern of parallel rows circumferentially encircling the entire perching surface to simulate a natural tree branch; and

an abrasive coating disposed about a portion of the perching surface, wherein said abrasive coating comprises a resin and sand;

whereby the perch therapeutically simultaneously stimulates blood circulation and nerve endings in a bird's feet when the bird stands on the perch.

Claim 2. (*Cancelled*).

Claim 3. (*Cancelled*).

Claim 4. (*Original*): The therapeutic bird perch of claim 1, wherein the abrasive coating encircles the perching surface.

Claim 5. (*Cancelled*).

Claim 6. (*Original*): The therapeutic bird perch of claim 5, wherein said resin coats the perching surface and said sand coats the resin.

Claim 7. (*Original*): The therapeutic bird perch of claim 1, wherein said shaft is hollow.

LITMAN LAW
OFFICES, LTD.
P.O. BOX 15035
ARLINGTON, VA 22215
(703) 486-1000

Claim 8. (*Currently Amended):* The therapeutic bird perch according to claim 7, further comprising an end cap disposed over at least one of the two opposing ends ~~end~~ of the shaft.

Claim 9. (*Original*): The therapeutic bird perch according to claim 1, further comprising a hangar bolt extending from at least one of the opposing ends of said shaft for mounting the shaft to a support.

Claim 10. (*Original*): The therapeutic bird perch according to claim 1, wherein said shaft is made from polyvinyl chloride tubing.

Claim 11. (*Original*): The therapeutic bird perch according to claim 1, wherein said abrasive coating is formed as a cylindrical shell disposed around said shaft.

Claim 12. (*Original*): The therapeutic bird perch according to claim 1, wherein said abrasive coating is disposed about a center portion of said shaft.

Claim 13. (*Currently Amended*): The therapeutic bird perch according to claim 1, wherein said abrasive coating is spirally wound around said shaft ~~in a spiral~~ between the opposing ends.

Claim 14. (*Original*): The therapeutic bird perch according to claim 1, wherein said abrasive coating comprises:

at least one base coat of a polyester casting resin; and

non-toxic, silica free sand laminated onto said base coat.

LITMAN LAW
OFFICES, LTD.
P.O. BOX 15035
ARLINGTON, VA 22215
(703) 486-1000

Claim 15. (*Original*): A therapeutic bird ladder, comprising:

a pair of parallel poles;

a plurality of the therapeutic bird perches according to claim 1 forming rungs disposed between the parallel poles.

Claim 16. (*Currently Amended*): The therapeutic bird ladder according to claim 15, wherein at least two of said perches have ~~a~~ different diameters from one another, whereby the bird exercises muscles of the feet to grasp the different diameter perches when climbing the ladder.

Claim 17. (*Currently Amended*): A therapeutic bird ladder, comprising:

a pair of parallel poles;

a plurality of rungs disposed between the parallel poles, each of the rungs including:

a cylindrical shaft of unitary construction having two opposing ends, the shaft having a perching surface circumferentially extending between the opposing ends and a plurality of longitudinal grooves etched into ~~defined in~~ the perching surface, the longitudinal grooves being disposed in an irregular pattern of parallel rows circumferentially encircling the entire perching surface to simulate a natural tree branch; and

an abrasive coating disposed about a portion of the perching surface, wherein the abrasive coating comprises a resin and sand.

Claim 18. (*Currently Amended*): The therapeutic bird ladder according to claim 17, wherein at least two of said rungs have ~~a different diameter~~ different diameters from one another.

LITMAN LAW
OFFICES, LTD.
P.O. BOX 15035
ARLINGTON, VA 22215
(703) 486-1000

19. (*Original*): The therapeutic bird ladder according to claim 17, wherein said abrasive coating comprises:

at least one base coat of a polyester casting resin; and

non-toxic, silica free sand laminated onto said base coat.

LITMAN LAW
OFFICES, LTD.
P.O. BOX 15035
ARLINGTON, VA 22215
(703) 486-1000